UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/981
S/1996/457
21 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 55
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 21 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to new and repeated violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey.

As I have already mentioned in my letters of 14 and 20 June 1996, Turkish air and naval forces have been participating in military exercises off the northern coast of Cyprus since 19 June 1996. Today, however, Friday, 21 June, the intensity and the gravity of those violations has been heightened by military planes of the Turkish Air Force flying at low altitude over the inhabited area of Nicosia, at certain points crossing the buffer zone, causing alarm among the local residents and creating an atmosphere of tension. At the same time, Turkish aircraft were engaged in military exercises with live ammunition, firing at mock targets in the Pentataktylos Mountain range, north of Nicosia.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to protest most strongly against these acts of aggression by Turkey and violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. This provocative and condemnable behaviour of Turkey is in complete disregard and violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/982
S/1996/458
21 June 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 140
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 21 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached press release, issued on 20 June 1996 by His Excellency Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), concerning the investigation of the violations of Cuban territorial airspace, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 140, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bruno RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

[Original: English]

Press release issued on 20 June 1996 at New York by the head of the delegation of Cuba to the International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO investigation of the violations of Cuban territorial airspace

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) team investigating the downing over Cuban territorial waters of two pirate aircraft that violated Cuban airspace on 24 February last expressed their intention of convening a so-called "technical meeting" with the participation of delegations of Cuba and the United States of America.

Said meeting, foreseen for two days, 20 and 21 June 1996, only lasted for 20 minutes, as it became obvious that it only had a formal nature and that it would not carry out an in-depth consideration of the report of the investigating team with the aim of modifying it as necessary.

The Cuban delegation, headed by Mr. Ricardo Alarcón, Speaker of the Cuban Parliament, considered that a meeting of such nature would not fulfil any useful purpose and should not take place, particularly when the report will be distributed today to members of the ICAO Council.

Mr. Alarcón made it crystal clear that Cuba would express its views in the ICAO Council itself and everywhere it considered appropriate.

Such a "technical meeting" can only be conceived as part and parcel of a manoeuvre geared to attempting to legitimize a one-sided report and give the impression that justice is being served by a procedure which, after more than three months of investigation, would attempt to compel members of the ICAO Council to express themselves only four days after having received the report, three of which are holidays.

In addition to having the effect of leaving in doubt the seriousness of the process, these "technical meetings" were also geared to giving the impression that the report had been exhaustively discussed, considered and even negotiated, when it cannot, as was expressed at the beginning of the meeting, be substantially changed and is being distributed even today to the ICAO Council members.

Cuba has totally rejected this approach.